

Organic Gardening

We practice organic gardening. It is part of the covenant all plot holders sign. Organic gardening takes more time and knowledge than conventional gardening because it uses natural rather than synthetic products to fight disease, keep pests away, and increase yield. We don't expect you to be an expert. We only ask that you commit to experimenting, learning, and seeking out answers to your organic gardening questions. Please take time to review the website www.organicgardening-101.com/organic-garden.html for a wealth of information for any level of organic gardener!

General Rules of “Green” Thumb

- ✿ Seek to work with natural systems
- ✿ Do as little environmental harm as possible
- ✿ Act with deliberate care
- ✿ Be flexible and adaptable
- ✿ Use your knowledge to decide your actions
- ✿ Stay away from synthetic pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers
(This includes products like Roundup, peat moss, coir, quicklime or slaked lime, and Chilean nitrates)

Fertilizers

Look for fertilizers with the OMRI certification on the label if you need to address specific deficiencies in your soil. Organic fertilizers (including animal manure) must be used with care and in limited amounts, as they carry nutrients in concentrations that could unintentionally create nutritional imbalances in the soil. It can also damage creek flora & fauna and may cause human health issues when leached into the water table.

Pest & Disease Management

Prevention is key!! Healthy soil and plants are naturally resistant to disease. Unhealthy plants attract pests. Use pest & disease-resistant plants appropriate to our climate; monitor your plot carefully to catch problems early, practice good garden maintenance and hygiene to prevent seasonal carry-over of disease pathogens or breeding areas for pests. One pest doesn't demand a crisis-response. Use healthy seeds, plants, and planting materials each season. Remove any diseased plant completely to prevent the spread of disease and to discourage pests.

Weed Control

Not all weeds need to be removed as many host beneficial critters. If the weed isn't competing with your plants, consider leaving it. If weeds threaten the health of your plants please do not use herbicides, no herbicides are acceptable in the organic garden. Instead, pull weeds early, being sure to get the root out then make use of mulches, cover crops, and crop rotation schemes to minimize weeds.

Questions? Your garden committee is ready to help! ☺